

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /059 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7362
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0499

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE
SUBJECT: MALTESE OBJECTIVES IN CSCE

1. WE ARE POUCHING FULL TEXT OF WHAT LOCAL PRESS
CARRIED APRIL 28 ON SPEECH ON CSCE BY JUSTICE MINISTER
CASSAR AT COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS MEETING OF COUNCIL OF
EUROPE. SPEECH WAS RECITAL OF GOM DISAPPOINTMENTS
OVER ABSENCE OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING "MEDITERRANEAN
DOCUMENT," EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR "MACHINERY" TO ENSURE
PROGRESS, AND ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO PRESS AT BELGRADE
FOR "MECHANISM WITH EXECUTIVE POWER TO ACT."

2. THIS IS THEME WE ARE HEARING INCREASINGLY HERE AND
WHICH WE EXPECT TO HEAR A GOOD DEAL MORE OF, INCLUDING
UNDOUBTED EFFORT AT ENDORSEMENT IN SOME FORM BY
MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST CONFERENCE TO BE HELD HERE IN
JUNE. MOREOVER, THERE IS NO QUESTION IN OUR MINDS
BUT THAT MINTOFF SEES BELGRADE MEETINGS AS EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY TO PUT PRESSURE ON EUROPEANS TO COME
FORWARD MORE THAN THEY HAVE SO FAR WITH THE KIND OF
SUPPORT THAT HE WANTS BUT ISN'T GETTING TO GIVE HIS
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1979 NEUTRALITY CONCEPT FOR MALTA THE CREDIBILITY IT
IS INCREASINGLY LACKING WITH HIS OWN CONSTITUENTS.

3. MINDFUL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS (STATE 38923)
WE HAVE TAKEN NO INITIATIVES TO DISCUSS CSCE WITH MALTESE.
WE DO NOT QUESTION THAT GUIDANCE, PARTICULARLY SINCE
UNLESS WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SUGGEST OURSELVES TO GOM,

INQUIRIES ON OUR PART AS TO MALTESE INTENTIONS MAY
SIMPLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO PUSH THEIR NOTIONS FURTHER.

4. BUT FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT WE SHARE CONCERN
EXPRESSED BY SPANISH DURING MADRID CSCE CONSULTATIONS
(MADRID 2625) THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN SHOULD NOT BECOME
AN EXCLUSIVE AREA OF INITIATIVE AT CSCE FOR THE NON-ALIGNED.
SPANISH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE HAD MALTA IN MIND BUT WE KNOW
FROM EXPERIENCE (AND FROM WHAT WE ARE HEARING ALREADY)
THAT MINTOFF WILL BE ACTIVE AND DIFFICULT ENOUGH AT
BELGRADE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS WILL BE ESPECIALLY
SO IF FIELD IS LEFT OPEN FOR HIM TO PUSH IDEAS FOR SOME
NEW (AND WE ASSUME UNDESIRABLE) MEDITERRANEAN MECHANISM
THAT HE WILL USE TO FURTHER HIS GUARANTEED NEUTRALITY
CONCEPT FOR MALTA.

5. WE ARE NOT IN A GOOD POSITION FROM HERE TO SUGGEST
SPECIFIC IDEAS TO BLUNT OR PREEMPT GOM INITIATIVES.
SPANISH SUGGESTION OF WORKING GROUP AT BELGRADE TO DEAL
MAINLY WITH BASKET II ISSUES SEEMS TO US TO HAVE SOME
MERIT. WE APPARENTLY ARE NOT ON DISTRIBUTION FOR
REPORTS OF WHATEVER CSCE CONSULTATIONS WE MAY BE HAVING
WITH ITALIANS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOTED IRISH REPORT
(DUBLIN 912) THAT ITALIANS WANT TO ENLARGE ROLE OF
MEDITERRANEAN GROUP BUT WITH SOME " OPTICAL FORMULA"
WHICH DOES NOT CHANGE ANYTHING.

6. OUR PURPOSE AT THIS POINT IS MAINLY TO RUN UP A
WARNING FLAG. PERHAPS WE ARE OVERREACTING. IN ANY
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EVENT WE WOULD WELCOME SOME GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT WE
OURSELVES ANTICIPATE ON MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES SO THAT
WE CAN KEEP OUR CONCERNS IN PERSPECTIVE. LAINGEN

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